GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1054
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2002
PILFERAGE OF CRUDE FROM WELLS IN GANDHAR
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH;RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

Whether there has been theft and pilferage of crude from wells in Gandhar`s onshore oilfield region of ONGC, Ankleshwar asset;if so, whether pilferage and thefts are a regular phenomenon in that area; if so, the quantity of crude so far been pilferaged and stolen; the action taken thereon; the modus operandi adopted in the theft and pilferage;

(f) the number of theft and pilferage cases solved; an

(g) the steps taken to check theft and pilferages?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR):

(a) to (c) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has reported that theft of crude oil from its Gandhar oilfield of Ankleshwar Asset in the State of Gujarat does take place sometime. Due to the nature of the crime, it is not possible to assess the quantity of crude oil so stolen.

(d) On detection of any theft of crude oil, the matter is reported to the State Police for appropriate action under the law.

(e) In some cases, the criminals manipulate the valves of the flowing wells to steal the crude oil, while in some other cases they puncture oil pipelines to do so.

(f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(g) A number of measures are being taken by ONGC in coordination with the State Government to curb theft of crude oil.The major steps taken in this direction, interalia, include the following:-

(i) Review by the Onshore Security Coordination Committee for the State of Gujarat.

(ii) Stopping the movement of Tankers in the oil fields during the night.

(iii) Vehicle checking during the night.

(iv) Joint patrolling of the oil fields.

(v) Daily inspection of oil wells.

(vi) Surprise checking by the Senior Officers.

(vii) Verification of character and antecedents of contractual employees.